

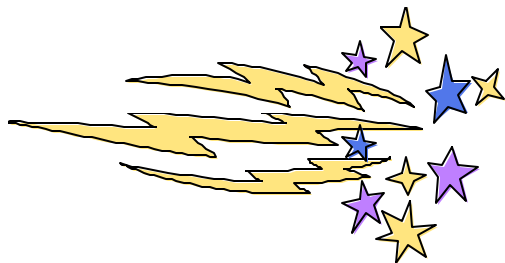
# SAFETY FLASH

## LIGHTNING is a KILLER

### LIGHTNING SAFETY



The chances of you being injured or killed by lightning are very small. However, it's necessary to exercise a little caution along with some good old-fashioned common sense during a thunderstorm to protect you and your family.



#### **\*Go Inside!**

The safest place to be in a lightning storm is indoors. Automobiles are also very effective in protecting you from a big shock because the current flows through the metal frame of the car. If you are in a car, do not touch any exposed metal that is connected to the car. Indoors means **indoors**. Structures like bus shelters, outhouses, lean-to shelters, or any small nonmetal structures do not give sufficient lightning protection.

#### **If you are in a house or building:**

- **Do not** use the telephone or any electrical appliance that is connected to the building's electrical wiring.
- **Do not** use showers, sinks, or anything where you are in contact with water that is in turn in contact with the building's plumbing system. If lightning strikes the building you are in, it is likely the current will flow either through the electrical wiring or the water pipes, and you may receive a possibly fatal shock if you are in contact with the wiring or water system.

#### **\*If you are caught outside:**

Stay away from **tall, isolated** objects like trees, flagpoles, or posts, and avoid large open areas like fields or parking lots where **you** are the relatively highest object. Stay away from lakes, ponds, railroad tracks, and fences which could bring current from a "far-away" lightning strike to you. Dense woods are relatively safe due to the large number of trees that decrease the chance of lightning striking a tree next to you, but do not stand close to any of the trees. If there is no shelter, crouch down, grab your ankles, and bend forward, in a position where your head is not the highest part of your body and where your head does not touch the ground. **DO NOT** lie flat on the ground. If lightning is about to strike you or something extremely close, you may experience a tingling feeling on your skin and/or your hair may stand on end. If this occurs, quickly get into the position described above. It is unlikely that you will not be able to find sufficient shelter, though.

#### **Go Cordless**

Need to use the phone during a storm? Use your cordless handset. Got to shave? Use your razor. Cordless appliances are perfectly safe to use during a thunderstorm because they aren't physically connected to outside conductors. If you're talking on your cordless phone and lightning strikes your telephone lines, you and your handset will be fine but you'll need a new phone base!





### **SELECTED INCIDENTS FROM THE “IT CAN’T HAPPEN TO ME” LIBRARY:**

A 26-year old male prison guard was injured while working outdoors at the Sumter Correctional Institute. Rain had just begun falling and the first lightning strike observed hit a fence and ricocheted 15 to 20 feet into the guard knocking him down.

Lightning struck and killed a 24-year old man while he was playing golf. Two of his companions were knocked down but not injured.

Two golfers were struck by lightning in a golf cart. They were hospitalized in critical condition.

A 34- year old little league coach was killed by a lightning strike while on the field.

# **SAFETY TIP OF THE MONTH**

PLAN in advance your evacuation and safety measures. When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don’t wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.

SUSPEND activities for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.

## **SAFETY SLOGAN**

**“IF YOU CAN SEE IT - FLEE IT;  
IF YOU CAN HEAR IT - CLEAR IT.”**

